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Title: Poems of Asia

Author: Kitaro  
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Chapter 1, Hajimari  
In the beginning, the  
heavens and the earth  
were one. The sky was of  
angry black clouds and  
the sea was nothing more  
than a seething, murky  
swamp. Life as we know  
it did not exist. Then one  
day the clouds began to  
swirl and grow, thunder  
crashed and a terrible  
rain began to fall. It  
rained night and day for  
weeks and months, as if  
it had done so forever.  
At last the rain stopped,  
and the heavens and the  
earth had separated.  
From the waters and the  
mud the gods began to  
appear, like young shoots  
of grass springing forth  
from the east. This is  
how the world began.

Chapter 2, Sozo - The  
Birth of a Land

The last of the gods to  
rise up from the chaos  
were Izanagi and the  
goddess Izanami. From the  
Bridge of Rainbows in  
Takamagahara, far above  
where the other gods  
live, they stirred the sea  
with a spear. When they  
withdrew the spear, the  
drops of mud that fell  
from it created a most  
beautiful group of islands.

Izanagi and Izanami went  
to live in the land, and  
were married. There,  
Izanami gave birth to  
many gods including those  
of the wind, the sea, the  
mountains and the earth.

### Chapter 3, Koi - Love and The Death of Izanami

The last god to be born  
was the god of fire,  
after which Izanami died.  
Her death caused her son  
Mikoto, the god of the  
night, terrible pain and  
grief. At last his father,  
Izanagi, disturbed at his  
son's weakness, expelled  
him from the land of the  
gods. After much  
wandering, Mikoto, found  
himself in a village  
terrorized by the  
Eight-Headed Dragon and  
where the beautiful  
maiden Kushinadahime lived.  
It is here that Mikoto  
first discovered love.

### Chapter 4, Orochi - The Eight-Headed Dragon

The Dragon was a  
terrible creature with  
eyes as red as Chinese  
lanterns. It had eight  
giant heads and tails long  
enough to span eight  
mountains and valleys. The  
monster dragon had  
already destroyed the  
village and devoured  
Kushinadahime's seven  
sisters, and it was  
feared he would soon  
return to claim the fair  
maiden. Using all of his  
cunning and strength  
Mikoto defeated the  
monster in a long and  
brutal battle.

### Chapter 5, Nageki - Sorrow in a World of

## Darkness

After Mikoto was thrown out of the land of the gods, his sister Hikaru, goddess of the sun, took pity on him and invited him to come live with her in Takamagahara. Mikoto was happy to do so, but his mischief soon caused Hikaru much grief. Hikaru fell into great despair and went to hide in the Celestial Rock Cave, plunging the world into total darkness. For this, Mikoto was thrown out of Takamagahara.

## Chapter 6, Matsuri - The Festival

Mikoto prayed and prayed to his father Izanagi to get Hikaru to come out from the cave. Meanwhile, some of the other gods gathered around the cave to sing and dance in a happy and joyous festival. Hikaru, thinking it strange that people were holding a festival in a dark and cold world, opened the stone gate before the cave to see what was happening. Just then Tajikarao, the god of strength, pushed away the stone and pulled Hikaru from the cave. The festival had been nothing but a trick.

## Chapter 7, Reimei - The New Dawn

As Hikaru came out from the cave, her light shone brilliantly in Takamagahara and throughout all the lands. Flowers began to bloom, birds began to sing and peace returned. With Hikaru's blessing, Mikoto and Kushinadahime were

married and lived happily  
ever after. It was the  
beginning of a new dawn  
in Yamato (Japan).  
Message of Sound

I send a Message of  
Sound  
Towards the sky  
Engulfing empty space  
Souring far beyond grasp  
High above mountain tops  
Beyond ocean waves  
Stretching to reach the  
Andes  
And lightly touching Nepal  
Watch as the sounds  
flow  
Listen as you feel the  
wind blow  
Nature is colored with  
romance  
Unfolding a drama day by  
day  
Plants breathe a rhythm  
Insects play their melody  
Light flies as wind cries  
Now catch the sound . .  
. feel the light  
By feeling things which  
are with life  
Innocents respond to the  
delicate sigh  
Of the world, weaving  
their own dreams  
Dreams which spread  
throughout the world  
People begin to sing  
harmonies of love,  
wordless  
This is a beginning  
Connecting the dream  
To the color of your  
breathless heart  
Peace and tranquility, you  
need only to sing  
It is for you.

### The Great Spirit

All living things come  
Face to face with the  
Great Spirit  
And the Great Spirit  
dwells  
Within all living things  
Tree  
Flower

Water  
Wind  
All things  
At times the Great  
Spirit is severe  
At times the Great  
Spirit is soothing  
Encompassing all life  
Everyplace the Great  
Spirit dwells  
Is the source of a gentle  
crystalline light  
And within that light  
we become One  
Floating as if in our  
mother's warm body  
Living together as  
children  
Of the earth  
Without time  
Without end..  
THE MESSENGER

One came upon him not  
too late  
Just in time to meditate.  
Immersed in angelic  
harmonies  
Of the spheres.  
Realizing this Heaven and  
Earth  
Must be shared  
With the souls of  
spiritual children  
everywhere  
MAGICAL MEETING PLACE  
The World Came to me, I  
greeted the World  
And the World allowed me  
to feel its pulse  
Likened to a manifestation  
of fluttering butterflies,  
Some would land and  
linger  
To be caressed in their  
full beauty  
And then released  
Unharm'd to continue  
their Sacred Journey.  
Our purpose fulfilled...  
for now.  
“Whatever joy there is  
in this world all comes  
from desiring others to  
be happy, and whatever  
suffering there is in this  
world all comes from  
desiring myself to be

happy.” (Shantideva.  
Buddhist Monk at Nalanda  
University in the 7th/8th  
century)